



## **Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting, Wednesday 14 February 2024**

**Astbury Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

### **Present:**

- Councillor J Critchlow
- Councillor P Critchlow
- Councillor M Bailey
- Councillor I Parry
- Councillor P Cliff
- Councillor N Barton
- Councillor B Jelf
- Councillor C Sutton
- Mr C Evans (Clerk)
- Ward Cllr L Wardlaw

### **Declarations of Interest**

- Cllr Sutton for discussion of planning application 23/1928W

### **Part 1 - Public and Press Forum**

No members of the public were present.

### **018/24 Apologies:**

- Councillor N Plant (prior engagements)
- Councillor R Lomas (travel)

### **019/24 Minutes**

The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2024 are a true and accurate record.

### **020/24 Accounts**

The Council **resolved** to approve the accounts.

**See Annex 1 for details of receipts and payments**

## **021/24 Planning Applications**

### **23/1928W**

*The extraction of industrial sand at the Somerford Farm site, pipeline to transfer minerals to the existing Bent Farm plant site associated ancillary development, retention of the Bent Farm plant site and progressive restoration.*

The Council noted that new documents had been submitted which attempt to address previous comments made by the Environment Agency, Natural England and other interested parties, and sought to give reassurances about the management of any dust created including by the elimination of the de-watering phase below the water table. The Council **resolved** not to object to it.

### **23/2553M**

*New equestrian building (to replace that approved under application reference 08/1946/FUL) and retrospective change of use of site for commercial purposes, change in site entrance gate and change in door material and style to the existing building.*

The Council noted the additional documents that had been lodged by the applicant. Since they didn't address any of the points previously made by the Council, the Council **resolved** to restate its objection. The Council also noted that no neighbours have been notified about the application.

## **022/24 – Policy to Review**

The Council reviewed the Standing Orders and **resolved** to approve them unamended.

## **023/24 Migration to the new Parish Website**

The Council noted progress with the migration to the new website. The Clerk will circulate details of the new email addresses and instructions on how to add the new account to Councillors' devices. The Clerk and website manager are trying to make sure that all the necessary information from the 'old' site is transferred across and in the most logical places.

## **024/24 Neighbourhood Plan**

Chair J Critchlow gave a brief progress update. Copies of the new draft had been posted to all parishioners and other statutory consultees. The formal consultation period will end on 3 March and the responses will be reviewed shortly thereafter. The Council **resolved** to print some copies of the accompanying Design Statement, primarily for use by Councillors as a reference document.

### **025/24 Community Infrastructure Levy**

Councillors discussed possible uses for the CIL monies received. The Clerk will circulate some additional guidance and examples from other parishes. Cllr Banks will look at whether the path across the Rectory which is used by the school might be a candidate for improvement.

### **026/24 Astbury Traffic Calming Measures**

Ward Cllr Wardlaw referred to the report on the A34 which had been shared with us. Communications from Cheshire East Highways were encouraging and she hoped there would be more to report next time.

### **027/24 Highways**

Ward Cllr Wardlaw reported that she is investigating whether the road condition and flooding on Chance Hall Lane can be tackled as a matter of urgency. The state of the roads elsewhere in the parishes and neighbouring parishes is still appalling.

### **028/24 Jubilee Bench at Ackers Crossing**

The Clerk and Cllr Cliff will arrange a time to install the bench as soon as a convenient time can be found.

### **029/24 Common Land**

The Clerk will continue to press contractors to propose a longer term maintenance plan, including tackling the weeds and nettles in particular which will certainly start appearing soon.

### **030/24 Cheshire East Ward Councillor Report**

Ward Cllr Wardlaw reported that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England is currently consulting on changes to electoral and ward boundaries, and Cheshire East Council are also canvassing opinion on their own proposals to the LGBCE. The discussion of Cheshire East Council's financial position is ongoing, and they are still looking at a substantial deficit despite efforts to reduce expenditure. CEC is still hoping to return a balanced budget but would have to dig deep into their reserves and cut services still further.

### **031/24 Chairman and Members' Reports**

Councillor Sutton reported that she had attended a 'liaison' meeting with neighbouring parishes which had discussed issues of mutual interest, such as D-Day remembrance plans and traffic and speeding on the CLR, since it runs through all the parishes involved. She will chair their next meeting in April. Councillors were urged to consider what we might arrange for the annual parishes meeting and hoped that

there could be presentation on the new Neighbourhood Plan, and possibly a speaker to talk about the local landmarks in the parishes. The Chair reported that the Personnel Group will meet soon to discuss the Clerk's performance and then invite him to an annual appraisal meeting.

### **032/24 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk encouraged all to report pot holes and fly tipping etc. through 'Fix my Street'.

**Meeting closed at 2105 hrs**

## Annex 1 - Accounts

Position as at 31 January 2024:

Bank Balance: **£20,048.73**

Of which:

- £2,149.09 – unspent Neighbourhood Plan Grant
- £6,833.47 - unspent Community Infrastructure Levy
- £441.98 - unspent CIL from 2020

The Council Noted the following receipts since 31 December 2023:

- £Nil

Payments since 31 December to note:

- £18.67 - Clerk Mileage Claim
- £48.74 - NEST, Clerk Pension
- £503.24 - HMRC PAYE
- £405.00 - Village Hall Hire
- £35.00 - ICO Annual Fee
- £66.00 - TCS Management
- £494.40 - Scribe Subscription
- £877.50 - N Sharman Neighbourhood Plan Postage
- £29.70 - N Sharman Neighbourhood Plan Postage
- £13.19 - N Sharman Web Hosting Fee

The Council approved the following payments:

- £Nil



Chairman